

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**

Applicant(s): Leonard R. Bayer et al.

Docket No.

HAR-003

Application No.  
09/882,203Filing Date  
06/15/2001Examiner  
Steven B. McAllisterCustomer No.  
024,902Group Art Unit  
3627Invention: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONDUCTING PRODUCT CONFIGURATION RESEARCH OVER A COMPUTER-BASED NETWORK**

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 3/18/05 WITH ENCLOSED DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.131**

(Identify type of correspondence)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

Applicant(s): Leonard R. Bayer et al.

Serial No.: 09/882,203

Confirmation No. 8016

Filed: June 15, 2001

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONDUCTING PRODUCT  
CONFIGURATION RESEARCH OVER A COMPUTER-BASED  
NETWORK

Examiner: McAllister, Steven B.

Art Unit: 3627

Atty Docket: HAR-003

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 3/18/05

Dear Sir:

Claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 40, 42, 43, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0169665 (Hughes et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 (Henson). Hughes et al. published from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/874,853. Enclosed is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 signed by the inventors showing that the invention of the application was conceived in the U.S. before the May 10, 2001 effective date of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/874,853 as set by that Application's claim to benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/290,131, filed May 10, 2001. The evidence of conception and reduction to practice accompanying the Declaration represents drawings prepared prior to May 10, 2001 which were used by the below signed attorney in preparing the above-identified application, and a sheet describing how the invention may be used for market research. Thus, Applicants have provided evidence of the claimed invention prior to the May 10, 2001 effective date of the Hughes et al. reference relied upon by the Examiner. As Hughes et al. is no longer a proper prior art reference, Henson cannot be combined with Hughes et al. to reject Claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 40, 42, 43, 45, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.